



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

May 9, 2013

The Honorable Jack Markell  
Office of the Governor  
Carvel State Office Building  
820 N. French Street 12th Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Dear Governor Markell:

I am writing in response to Delaware's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. Between April 1 and April 16, 2013, the State submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff in the Implementation and Support Unit (ISU) to support an amendment request to its approved Race to the Top plan. As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On October 4, 2011, the Department sent a letter and revised "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document to Governors of grantee States indicating the process by which amendments would be reviewed and approved or denied. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Department has applied the conditions noted in the document, and compared it with the Race to the Top program Principles, which are also included in that document.

I approve the following amendment:

- Integrate the differentiated recognition system in Delaware's approved ESEA flexibility request with the "Academic Achievement Award" project. The amendment will align the differentiated recognition, accountability, and support systems, changing the per school award amount from \$150,000 to \$50,000. Instead of recognizing five (5) schools annually, up to two (2)

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*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

Reward schools and fifteen (15) Recognition schools will receive annual awards. The award determinant will remain school level achievement gap closure, although both Title I and non-Title I schools will now be eligible for awards under the Recognition award category.

It is our understanding that the amendments described above will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will they substantially change the scope of the project.

Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendments. I am confident that Delaware will continue its bold, comprehensive reform efforts. If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Delaware's Race to the Top Program Officers, Patrick Carr at 202-708-8196 or [patrick.carr@ed.gov](mailto:patrick.carr@ed.gov) or Meredith Farace at 202-401-8368 or [meredith.farace@ed.gov](mailto:meredith.farace@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen  
Director, Policy and Program Implementation  
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Mark T. Murphy, Secretary of Education  
Sara Kerr, Chief Performance Officer, Race to the Top Delivery Unit